women have for their families, prevailed in the diſſenting part of the community, however worthy in other reſpects; and alſo that the ſame timid prudence, or headſtrong efforts, often diſgraced the exertions of both. Oppreſſion thus formed many of the features of their character perfectly to coincide with that of the oppreſſed half of mankind; for is it not notorious that diſſenters were, like women, fond of deliberating together, and aſking advice of each other, till by a complication of little contrivances, ſome little end was brought about? A ſimilar attention to preſerve their reputation was conſpicuous in the diſſenting and female world, and was produced by a ſimilar cauſe.

Aſſerting the rights which women in common with men ought to contend for, I have not attempted to extenuate their faults; but to prove them to be the natural conſequence of their education and ſtation in ſociety. If ſo, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that they will change their character, and correct their vices and follies, when they are allowed to be free in a phyſical, moral, and civil ſenſe *.

Let

* I had further enlarged on the advantages which might reaſonably be expected to reſult from an improvement in female

Let woman ſhare the rights and ſhe will emulate the virtues of man; for ſhe muſt grow more perfect when emancipated, or juſtify the authority that chains ſuch a weak being to her duty.—If the latter, it will be expedient to open a freſh trade with Ruſſia for whips; a preſent which a father ſhould always make to his ſon-in-law on his wedding day, that a huſband may keep his whole family in order by the ſame means; and without any violation of juſtice reign, wielding this ſceptre, ſole maſter of his houſe, becauſe he is the only being in it who has reaſon:—the divine, indefeaſible earthly ſovereignty breathed into man by the Maſter of the univerſe. Allowing this poſition, women have not any inherent rights to claim, and by the ſame rule, their duties vaniſh, for rights and duties are inſeparable.

Be juſt then, O ye men of underſtanding! and mark not more ſeverely what women do amiſs, than the vicious tricks of

female manners, towards the general reformation of ſociety; but it appeared to me that ſuch reflections would more properly cloſe the laſt volume.

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